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Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 JUSE-00
AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00
ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 W
----------046640 071759Z /46
P 071504Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1745
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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USMTN

PASS STR FOR ACTION

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, GT, HO, NU, CS, ES
SUBJECT: MTN: CIRCULATION OF OFFER BY NICARAGUA

REF: (A) GENEVA 9613, (B) GENEVA A-205

1. SUMMARY: NICARAGUA HAS NOTIFIED OTHER MTN PARTICIPANTS THAT ITS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE MTN IS THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF A NEW TARIFF SYSTEM BY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET (CACM). END SUMMARY.

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2. NICARAGUAN MTN DEL ASKED GATT SECRETARIAT TO CIRCULATE AS A CLASSIFIED NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT TO MTN PARTICIPANTS A JUNE 16 LETTER FROM THE UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, HARRY BODAN SHIELDS, WHICH DESCRIBES NICARAGUA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MTN. LETTER STATES NICARAGUAN OPINION THAT MTN DOES NOT IMPLY ANY OBLIGATION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO OFFER CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

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HOWEVER, NICARAGUA, GIVEN IT'S INTEREST IN THE NEGOTIA-
TIONS, IS MAKING A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT AND "...IS DISPOSED
TO OFFER AND CONTRIBUTE GLOBALLY IN COORDINATION WITH THE
MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET."
CONTRIBUTION WILL BE ADOPTION OF A NEW TARIFF REGIME BY
CACM. LETTER LISTS VARIOUS OBJECTIVES TO BE PURSUED IN
FRAMING NEW CACM TARIFF AND CUSTOM REGIME, INCLUDING
RESTRUCTURING OF COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF. A NEW TARIFF
NOMENCLATURE AND CUSTOMS VALUATION SYSTEM WILL BE ADOPTED,
BASED ON THE DEFINITION OF VALUE OF THE BRUSSELS CUSTOMS
CORPORATION COUNCIL, OR ANY IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THAT
NEGOTIATED IN THE MTN, COULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED. (TEXT
OF LETTER TRANSMITTED REF. B).

3. ACCORDING TO NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR, PRESENT OFFER IS
CIRCULATED ONLY ON BEHALF OF NICARAGUA, ALTHOUGH OTHER
CACM COUNTRIES WERE INFORMED OF ACTION BEFORE HAND. OTHER
CACM COUNTRIES ARE REPORTEDLY SEEKING AUTHORITY FROM GOVERN-
MENTS TO TABLE SIMILAR WRITTEN OFFERS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED
TO BE TABLED PRIOR TO JULY 15. WRITTEN OFFER DOES NOT
INCLUDE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL (A) OF
POSITIVE CONSIDERATION OF JOINING CODES UNDER NEGOTIATION
AND POSSIBLE GATT MEMBERSHIP BY FOUR CACM NON-GATT MEMBERS.
WHILE NOT INCLUDED IN WRITTEN OFFER, THESE ADDITIONAL
ELEMENTS ENUMERATED BY CACM SPOKESMAN IN CONSULTATION
REMAIN UPON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. PRESENT CACM AGREEMENT
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ON JOINT MTN PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO RULE OUT OFFERS
ON SPECIFIC PRODUCTS.

4. COMMENT: US MTN DEL WELCOMES WRITTEN OFFER BY NICARAGUA
AND HOPES THAT OTHER CACM COUNTRIES WILL JOIN IN TABLING
WRITTEN OFFERS BY JULY 15. IT IS DIFFICULT, HOWEVER, TO
GIVE NEGOTIATING CREDIT FOR TRADE ACTIONS UNTIL SOME DEGREE
OF SPECIFITY CONCERNING SPECIFIC PRODUCTS AND PROPOSED
ACTION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED. AT PRESENT STAGE, OFFER
PRINCIPALLY CONSTITUTES A STATEMENT OF GOOD INTENTIONS.
US MTN DEL WILL CONTINUE TO URGE CACM GENEVA DEL TO
CONSIDER TARIFF REDUCTIONS AND/OR BINDINGS ON SPECIFIC
PRODUCTS AS QUID PRO QUO FOR US IMPLEMENTING TARIFF OFFERS
ON PARTICULAR PRODUCTS IN WHICH CACM COUNTRIES ARE PRINCI-
PAL SUPPLIERS. WITHOUT SUCH SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION, IT
WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN OUTSTANDING US OFFER. END
COMMENT.

5. DRAFTED BY KNEPPER. MCDONALD

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEETING AGENDA, TARIFF SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA10291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780279-0562
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USMTN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780787/aaaacvdb.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c564e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 9613, 78 GENEVA A-205
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2090871
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN: CIRCULATION OF OFFER BY NICARAGUA
TAGS: ETRD, GT, HO, NU, CS, ES, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c564e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014